WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vessel comprising:

a center hull;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and

at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls,

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls.

2. The vessel of claim 1, further comprising a ramp coupled to a first end of the center hull.

3. The vessel of claim 2, further comprising another ramp coupled to a second end of the center hull.

4. The vessel of claim 1, further comprising a lifting mechanism configured to vertically translate the center hull with respect to the first and second side hulls.

5. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes at least one of a plurality of screw jacks, a plurality of chain jacks, wire rope and linear winches, a plurality of rack and pinions, and a plurality of hydraulic actuators.

6. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes a plurality of hydraulic actuators coupled between the center hull and the first and second side hulls.

7. The vessel of claim 6, wherein the hydraulic actuators are disposed in the side hulls.

8. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes a plurality of ballast tanks disposed in the center hull and in the side hulls.

9. The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

10. The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be tilted by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

11. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are wing walls.

12. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls include a plurality of guides, and the center hull includes a plurality of lifting blocks configured to engage the guides to vertically guide the center hull during vertical translation thereof.

13. The vessel of claim 12, wherein the lifting blocks are coupled to the lifting mechanism to vertically translate the center hull.

14. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a top deck of the center hull is configured to be vertically translated below a surface of a body of water.

15. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are configured to be lifted above a surface of a body of water.

16. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated above a surface of a body of water, and the side hulls are configured to be pushed into the water.

17. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the first and second side hulls are coupled to the cross support at an upper portion of the side hulls.

18. The vessel of claim 1, wherein said center hull is slidably coupled to the first and second side hulls.

19. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls increases when the center hull is translated upward.

20. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls decreases when the center hull translated downward.

21. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are approximately parallel.

22. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the first side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls, wherein the second side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls.

23. The vessel of claim 22, wherein the struts are vertically disposed.

24. The vessel of claim 22, wherein the struts are canted.

25. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull, the first side hull, and the second side hull form hulls of the vessel.

26. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the vessel.

27. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull includes a top deck configured to hold cargo and/or passengers.

28. A vessel comprising:

a center hull that includes a first plurality of ballast tanks;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull, the first side hull including a second plurality of ballast tanks;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull, the second side hull including a third plurality of ballast tanks; and

at least one cross support configured to couple the first and second side hulls,

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

29. The vessel of claim 28, further comprising a first ramp coupled to a first end of the center hull.

30. The vessel of claim 29, further comprising a second ramp coupled to a second end of the center hull.

31. The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the vessel.

32. The vessel of claim 28, wherein the side hulls are wing walls.

33. The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls increases when the center hull is translated upward.

34. The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls decreases when the center hull translated downward.

35. The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the vessel.

36. A vessel comprising:

a central hull;

a plurality of struts coupled to the central hull, the struts extending downward with respect to the central hull;

a plurality of pods coupled to the struts; and

a plurality of floatation devices slidably coupled to the struts, wherein a draft of the pods is configured to be increased or decreased by vertically translating the floatation devices.

37. The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of pods includes at least a first pod and a second pod.

38. The vessel of claim 37, wherein the plurality of floatation devices includes at least a first floatation device and a second floatation device.

39. The vessel of claim 38, wherein the plurality of struts includes at least a first forward strut, a second forward strut, a first aft strut, and a second aft strut.

40. The vessel of claim 39, wherein the first forward strut and the first aft strut are coupled to a first side of the central hull, and the second forward strut and the second aft strut are coupled to second side of the central hull.

41. The vessel of claim 40, wherein the first pod is slidably coupled to the first forward strut and the first aft strut, and the second pod is slidably coupled to the second forward strut and the second aft strut.

42. The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of floatation devices includes a number of floatation devices corresponding to a number of struts included in the plurality of struts.

43. The vessel of claim 42, wherein one or more of the floatation devices are configured to be vertically translated to tilt the vessel.